under NRCP include interception and diversion works to capture the raw sewage flowing into the river through open drains and divert them for treatment in Sewage Treatment Plants; Low Cost Sanitation works on river banks; Electric and/or improved wood-crematoria for proper cremation of bodies; River Front Development works, Public Participation and Awareness programmes etc. As per the Water Quality Monitoring undertaken through reputed independent Institutions, water quality in the river Ganga has improved in terms of values of the Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) compared to pre-GAP period. Similarly in the case of Yamuna, the water quality is conforming to the prescribed limits except for the stretch of Delhi and parts of Uttar Pradesh mainly due to extraction of water from Yamuna for drinking purposes.

River conservation is a mammoth task requiring involvement of all the stakeholders. The Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Governments in creation of civic infrastructure for sewage management and disposal etc. by providing grant for capital works in the identified polluted stretches. There are also other Central programmes presently in operation under the Union Ministry of Urban Development, namely, the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) and the Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT), for supplementing the efforts of the State Governments and Urban Local Bodies by provision of Additional Central Assistance (ACA) as per guidelines of these programmes. Sewerage and sewage treatment (*i.e.* domestic wastewater treatment) are among the admissible components under these programmes. The Government has also initiated an exercise for revamping the river conservation strategy to promote a holistic and integrated approach.

The rivers taken up for pollution abatement works under NRCP do not include the river Brahamaputra. The water quality of the river, as per the available reports conforms to the prescribed bathing standards under NRCP for organic pollution level.

Green house gases

1139. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is not a fact that new cars in India are emitting more greenhouse gases than older models are pushing up emission in Delhi above by 72 per cent as per the Centre for Science and Environment;

(b) whether it is also a fact that emission of Carbon-di-Oxide is linked to fuel efficiency of vehicles; and

(c) if so, in what manner his Ministry is planning to address this issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) As this is a recent analysis report done by Centre for Science and Environment based on pollution data, the report needs to be examined to ascertain facts and implications thereof. The information is being collected and would be laid on the Table of the House.

Decline in tiger population

1140. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:
SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has been urged in writing by around 140 tiger experts, non-government organization and prominent citizens about the critical need to act immediately to save the national animals;

(b) whether Government is aware about the decline in tiger population in the country; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government with details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) The Government has been receiving suggestions from people belonging to various walks of life including tiger experts, citizens and Non-Governmental Organisations for tiger conservation.

(b) and (c) As per the findings of the recent all India Estimation of tiger using refined methodology, the total country- level population of tiger is 1411 (mid value); the lower and upper limits being 1165 and 1657 respectively. The recent assessment of tiger population is based on determining spatial occupancy of tigers throughout potential tiger forests and sampling such forests using camera traps in a statistical framework. This assessment is not comparable to the earlier total count using pugmarks owing to several shortcomings in the later. The new findings indicate a poor status of tiger population in areas outside tiger reserves and protected areas. The tiger population, by and large, in tiger reserves and protected areas of such States are viable, while requiring ongoing conservation efforts.

Polluted rivers

1141. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether large number of rivers in our country have got polluted;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether any steps have been taken/ funds allocated for cleaning of polluted rivers;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any task force have been constituted to study and to protect the polluted rivers; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (f) As per an earlier survey, polluted stretches on rivers